

CIRCULAR.

CHILDREN'S ANTI-SLAVERY
MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

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ROOMS OF THE AMER. MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION,
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CHILDREN'S ANTI-SLAVERY MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

[Circular.] { ROOMS OF THE A.M.A.,
 { N. Y. December 18, 1857.

To Parents, Ministers of the Gospel, Superintendents and Teachers of Sabbath Schools, and all Educators of Children and Youth:

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:—The subject which we wish to present to you relates to the dearest interests of christianity, and of the rising generation, to human freedom and salvation. It has been said that the missionary enterprise is the glory of the age. It is more. In its true life, it is the glory of Christianity. Its element is of the very perfection of God—LOVE. Its transcendent manifestation was in the advent, life, and death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. His apostles, and those in every age who have imitated his example have been the luminaries and the benefactors of the world.

Like the Gospel, the missionary idea is comprehensive. Grand and beautiful in its simplicity, it is alike adapted to ravish the heart and enlist the activities of a little child, and to command the admiration of men of the profoundest intellect, and lead them to lay themselves as living sacrifices upon its altar.

A thing so Godlike is, and must ever be, the enemy of all wrong, of injustice, cruelty and oppression, as it is of blasphemy, hypocrisy, adultery, drunkenness and murder. It delights in holiness, in all that is Christ-like, pure, peaceable, honest, just, lovely, and of good report. It propagates the Gospel which saves from sin, personal, social, political and national; which stamps upon the believer the moral image of Christ, delivers him from the wrath to come and raises him to heaven. It will yet wash out the blood of the world, heal all its wounds, break all its fetters, open all its prison doors, and make it paradise again; and the Lord God 'will set his sanctuary in the midst of his people forevermore.'

But this glorious consummation will come in connection with human instrumentality.

The wisdom and goodness of God are manifested not only in the design of Christianity to bless men of all classes, conditions, and nations, but in his use of each, to communicate the blessing to others. Children must have their part in this glorious work, and if the enemy and the avenger are to be still-ed, must bear their testimony to Christ, as they did in the temple on his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem.

What sight so beautiful, so sublime, as that of millions of children engaged as one in the missionary enterprise! What songs, what shouts like their Hosannas to the Son of David, the very inspiration and type of Heaven,—giving assurance, and transporting with joy the saints who are soon to pass to their reward, and leave to their offspring the conflict and the triumph—the ushering in of the kingdom of Him whose right it is to reign, and in whom all the nations of the earth are to be blessed.

Next in importance to a child's conversion, is his being engaged in doing good. If, indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive, that generation will be most blessed which, from childhood, shall be engaged in labors of love, in missions of mercy. But the right direction should be given them. Parents, teachers, ministers of the Gospel, all, should be guides and educators of the rising generation in this heavenly employment. In order to do this, the whole Church should seek a new baptism of the Holy Ghost. Children should have millennial conceptions of Christianity. The claims of the Gospel for God and for humanity, are in harmony with the conscience and the instincts of a child. Let these be held as fundamental. Whatever of ignorance, prejudice, or hardness has, in time past, prevailed in the Church or society to direct or excuse any evil, must be abandoned, and the true light be welcomed.

The objects of benevolence must be placed before the children—the heathen, the slave, the ignorant, the destitute, the vicious, our ruined humanity in all its woes, its need of Christ, and of all the blessings of his salvation.

There are some objects eminently calcula-

lated to interest the young, chiming in with their affections and enlisting their sympathies. To give prominence to these is the part of wisdom. In presenting to them the heathen world, we should, therefore, picture to them the condition of the young, as we should also the terrible condition and prospects of millions of children in slavery in our own land. The wrongs and the sufferings of the African and the Indian, the two races most injured by the white man, should be brought to their view, on which an appeal to their compassion and their sense of justice may be based, by means of which they may early be led to deny themselves, and give exercise and employment to the better and holier feelings of their being, in efforts to do good to and bless those who are suffering both from their lack of the Gospel, and from the wrongs of their oppressors.

Our missions in Kansas, and the Slave States and their borders, have peculiar features: and the labors, perils, persecutions and success of our missionaries there have secured great and general interest. Our Colporteurs in Kentucky give Bibles to slaves, and distribute and sell tracts, and other works, against slavery, as against intemperance, or any other sin. In Kentucky and North Carolina, the labors of our missionaries are directed not only for the salvation of the whole people, but also for the abolition of slavery. They have organized numerous churches, which deny fellowship to slaveholders, and have established Sabbath and other schools on an anti-slavery, anti-caste, Christian basis. God blesses them with revivals of religion, and their labors and influence are preparing the way for the peaceful abolition of slavery, and the elevation and salvation of all classes.

These missions, from the nature and variety of the interest they present, may be made to draw on the best feelings of children, and, if they become active supporters of them, give growth to the purest and strongest principles of religion and humanity; thus preparing them for responsible labors, which they will hereafter be called to perform for the Church, the country, and the world. As children take pleasure in action, having

some definite attractive object before them, we propose to the friends of pure religion and freedom, that they promote and secure, in their several localities, the formation of CHILDREN'S ANTI-SLAVERY MISSIONARY SOCIETIES, the objects of which shall be the promotion of a general interest among the young in missionary Associations, on Christian and anti-slavery principles, and more particularly for the support and extension of our missions in Slave States and their borders, including Kansas, thus opening to them a field of special effort, and a channel through which may flow their hearty and undefiled contributions.

For the success of our design, we rely, under God, upon the interest and direction given to it by the friends of the object. As we are not sectarian, though evangelical in character, children, of different Christian denominations, can unite, in town, village, or district societies, or, if regarded as more convenient, in connection with their several churches, or Sabbath-schools.

Commending the above to your prayerful consideration, and respectfully asking your co-operation, we are, in behalf of the American Missionary Association,

Respectfully, yours,

GEORGE WHIPPLE,

S. S. JOCELYN.

LEWIS TAPPAN.

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Description of the Certificate.

The Central Vignette shows the general design of the Society, to go "into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

On the left are two striking illustrations of slavery; 1st, Stealing children, and brandishing the whip over the agonised mother. 2nd, A fugitive slave struggling with bloodhounds, his pursuers rushing to take him; in the distance his wife and children welcomed with open arms by a christian woman.

At the top is a peaceful scene in Africa.

On the right side, at the bottom, is a school, taught by a kind lady; some of the children may have been in slavery. Next is a group of children of the five great branches of the human family, the European, the Chinese, the Malay, the African, and the American Indian, in natural harmony. At the top, a quiet scene among the North American Indians.

In the center, at the bottom, a praying child.

Around the whole are appropriate and instructive mottoes.

Blanks are left to be filled, as may be appropriate for Societies connected with Sabbath Schools, or otherwise.

The certificates will be printed on fine, sized paper, in ornamented style: more perfect than can be done in this paper. The price will be two dollars a hundred, including postage.

Organization of Children's Anti-Slavery Missionary Societies.

In accordance with a former suggestion, we present to parents and others, the general outline of a plan for the organization of Children's Anti-Slavery Missionary Societies, for the support of Christian Anti-Slavery Missions.

The success of these efforts will depend, under God, on the hearty co-operation of Parents, Ministers of the Gospel, Teachers, and Superintendents of Sabbath

Schools. Our paper goes to them, more than to children; and, at first, their aid will be indispensable, to bring the plan before the children, and interest them in it, and to counsel and guide them in its practical operation. If they will pretty generally, aid in the formation of such societies, a large sum may be realized towards carrying forward the work.

We propose that in each town, congregation, Sabbath School, or other school, children and youth form an Anti-Slavery Missionary Society, the object of which shall be to aid in sustaining Christian missions, with anti-slavery principles; especially in the slave States, and their borders, including Kansas.

The organization should be simple, with such officers as may be thought expedient; and in its details or operations, should have the advice or approval of those most interested in the children and the cause.

Any child may belong to the society, by having his or her name enrolled on its list of members; and we would suggest that each one should be requested to contribute one cent, at least, every week. The collections may, perhaps, be most conveniently made on the Sabbath.

Monthly meetings might be held, when brief facts of missionary and anti-slavery intelligence could be given, in connection with reading from the Bible, singing, prayer, and short addresses.

Such meetings might be called "*Children's Monthly Missionary Concerts*," and be held in the day time; and on the Sabbath, especially when connected with congregations, and Sabbath Schools. Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, Teachers and Ministers of the Gospel would cheer them with their presence, by engaging in the exercises.

An Annual Meeting for business, and other exercises may also be held.

Certificates of membership, neatly executed, with an appropriate design, will be soon prepared for general use; and may be had by addressing the Treasurer, Lewis Tappan, at the rate of two dollars per hundred,—including postage.

TO CHILDREN.

How wonderful it is that the Son of God should come down from heaven, and become a little child. It was that he might be a brother to comfort us; a missionary to teach us the will of God; and a Saviour, to suffer and die for our sins. No wonder that heaven was full of joy, and that an angel flew

to the shepherds to tell them the glad news that the Saviour was born, and that quickly a multitude of the heavenly host were present "praising God and saying glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"

Is it possible that children can read, in the Bible, the Saviour's love, his life from his youth up, and how he suffered and died on the cross, and not feel that they ought to love him, and do all they can to make him known to the heathen and to all. He went about doing good, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, made the deaf to hear, cast out devils, and raised the dead. He cared for the widow and the fatherless, and preached his Gospel to the poor and needy. He loved little children, and put his hands on them and blessed them. He pitied the outcasts; bound up the broken hearted; opened the prison doors, and gave deliverance to the captives; forgave the penitent, even the thief on the cross, and when dying for our sins, prayed for his murderers.

After he rose from the dead, and was about to ascend again to heaven, he gave the command;—"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned;" and said "lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

What a blessed and honorable work he has left for us to do,—one in which even children can engage,—to carry, or send, the gospel of salvation to all the world. How mercifully he has inclined his people to engage in it, and what millions he has saved through their instrumentality. But Oh, what hundreds of millions are yet to be converted, the heathen and their children, the Indians and their children, the millions of slaves in our own land,—bought and sold like cattle, and forbidden to read even the Bible—with their children, and their oppressors with their children. All these must be taught to love and obey the Gospel.

We want to say to the children who may see this paper, you can do much to aid this work, and we wish to enlist you in every part of it, but more especially in what is being

done in the slave States, and in Kansas, to preach a Gospel that may save men from their sins and secure liberty to the slave. In every number of the "American Missionary," we shall try to publish something which shall tend to quicken your own love to the Saviour, and to increase your interest in this work, and give you information about it. We hope, too, that your parents, teachers, and minister, will take pleasure in talking with you about it, and will encourage you to form anti-slavery missionary societies, and will show you how you may earn and save money to give to this cause.

If you had brothers or sisters growing up in heathenish darkness, or who had been stolen from your home, and were held as slaves; would you not labor and pray, and give all you could, to deliver them from their terrible condition. Thus would we have you remember those "who are in bonds," and labor and pray for their deliverance: and above all, that they may be reconciled to God, and saved from their sins.

God has given you, and all of us, great encouragement to engage in this work, by his assurances that he will bless it. "Ethiopia shall soon stretch forth her hands to God:" your labor shall not "be in vain in the Lord." He is the God of the oppressed, when they cry unto to him, he will hear them, and will yet deliver them.

We publish below, letters from Mr. and Mrs. Fee, in Kentucky, addressed to you, children, giving you some facts in relation to their field. Another time we hope to give you more from others. May you be among the redeemed in heaven, and find there many others, saved through your instrumentality.

Affectionately, your friends:

<i>Rooms of the A. M. A.,</i>	} GEO. WHIFFLE, S. S. JOCELYN, LEWIS TAPPAN,
<i>New-York, Jan. 20, '58.</i>	

MR. FEE'S LETTER TO CHILDREN.

Berea, Madison Co., Jan. 11, 1858.

DEAR CHILDREN:—In the last number of the American Missionary, it was proposed that the youth of this country unite in "Children's Anti-Slavery Missionary Societies," for the support of free missions in slave States. Some of you may feel that you are small, and inexperienced, and that all you can do will be of but little importance. But this is not so. You, and others, who are now children, will soon govern this nation, and must carry on all our religious,

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benevolent, and missionary societies, or they will all fail. It is, then, of the highest importance that you should learn to act from right principles, and to do all that must be done to give them success.

One quarrelsome or dishonest child, will often destroy your best plans for a cheerful play; and you can only succeed by changing or removing him. So, also, one bad principle will often destroy the best plans for doing good. Allowing slavery in our government, and admitting slaveholders to Christian Churches, makes the government a tool of the slaveholder, and the church the friend of those who crush both the bodies and the souls of the poor and needy. You can aid in destroying slavery.

Almost all the energies of men in past times, have been used in the wrong direction. Instead of making efforts to purify the heart, they have spent millions of dollars, and wasted millions of lives, in making and using engines of war to destroy life, either in attacking others, or defending themselves. If all this money, and these lives, had been used in spreading the gospel of love, how much happier all would have been, and how much safer all would have felt. Now, children, God would have you aid in sustaining the preaching of a gospel that will purify the heart, and make men holy, and save the world.

FIELD FOR ACTION.

Do you ask where it is? The American Missionary Association has already pointed out one of vast importance, and of increasing interest in our own country. It is the slave States of this nation. In these, there are four millions of slaves, in such a state of ignorance and degradation as to shame any civilized nation. In the same States, there are six millions of free people. Whilst there are excellencies among many of these, yet, most of them are breathing a poison that will bring them to destruction. It is the poison of pride, of caste, and of slavery. What a terrible thought, that millions of men, women and children, in our midst, are rushing, almost unwarned, to eternal perdition.

Do you ask, What can *we* do? I answer: The American Missionary Association has missionaries under its care in Kentucky and other slave States: who hold up a gospel of impartial love, and have organized churches which refuse fellowship with slaveholding, and other known sins; and it wishes to increase the number. Can you help to sustain these.

It is true, we are here sometimes called to endure persecutions and mob violence; but not greater than friends of righteousness in free States did, a few years since, nor as much as our Saviour did, who was seized by a mob and put to death. Painful as these persecutions are, God makes the wrath of man to praise him. The mobs awaken the people, cause them to read and listen more attentively, and make the friends act with more zeal. Better than all, we enjoy the blessing of God in our meetings. On another page you will see a notice of a recent one.

I must tell you a fact here, which I hope will interest you, and do good. Among those who have just joined one of our churches, was a slave woman, about fifty years of age. A few mornings after, we held a conference meeting. After some others, this sister arose, humble as the Syro-Phœnician woman, who said to our Saviour, "The dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from their master's table," and told her conviction of sin, her conversion to God, and her trust and rest in Christ. She did this with solemnity, simplicity, and purity, such as come only from a deep Christian experience, and which seemed to affect all who heard her.

The next Sabbath was Communion season. She was present. When I was preaching, I saw her lips, like Hannah of old, move in prayer, whilst tears of love stole down her sable cheeks. We make no distinction at our Communion, because of the color or condition of members: we know our Savior would not: and when the invitation was made for communicants to come to the Lord's table, she came with others, as a sister. At the closing hymn she extended her hand, in token of fellowship, and it was cordially re-

ceived by brethren and sisters. As I turned, I saw the good brother at whose house she lives, (he is not a slaveholder, nor is this woman hired to him,) literally bathed in tears. Children, would you not love to sustain a gospel that brings comfort to the poor slave, rebukes oppression and caste, and unites the world in one brotherhood.

Did space allow, I would tell you of the condition of untutored slave children, of the wants of thousands of white children—of our purpose to build schools in which to train young men and women as teachers, in all which we shall need your help. Will you not, at once, begin to devise plans by which you may save, and gather, means to help this great and good work? If you will, I, and others, will give you, from time to time, facts, not fiction, as food for your minds, and motives to benevolent action.

JOHN G. FEE.

A LETTER FROM MRS. FEE.

DEAR CHILDREN: I have some facts to tell you, which I related, not long since, to a little group, from whom I had been absent a few days. After some presents had been distributed, H——, a gleeful boy of six summers, came up to me, and with his usual smile, said "mother, I suppose you can tell us several stories now,—can you tell us one about boys?" I replied, O yes: about two little boys, whose condition I shall not soon forget. They came with us yesterday in the stage, from Lexington to Richmond.

The little fellows were about three and five years old. They were thinly clad for a cold October day, as was also their attendant, a tall, spare mulatto woman, perhaps twenty-two years of age. She did not give them much attention, nor did they appear to require much; they were very quiet for children of their age, during a ride of twenty-six miles. They were white, having fair oval faces, blue eyes, and very fair hair, with a few ringlets interspersed. They were pretty, though they had an uncared-for look.

As the evening air grew more chilly, I wrapped a shawl about their shivering forms. An old lady, who sat near, asked if they were my children. I touched the arm of the mulatto woman, and asked whose chil-

dren they were. She answered "They is mine. We's all gwien to Richmond to be sold. 'Spect we'll be sold to-morrow." I turned to the ladies who sat with me, and asked what they thought of this. They replied, "It is a shame to any country."

As we approached the Kentucky River, and were admiring the beautiful scenery about its high, bluff banks, I saw the slave mother looking out, for a long time, with an earnest, anxious gaze. Mingled hopes and fears were written in her face. "What State are we in now?" she asked. I replied "Kentucky." "Is dis de Ohio River?" I told her it was the Kentucky River, and another lady added, "It is the line between Madison and Fayette Counties." She said "I never heard of Madison State." This caused a laugh, but a still small voice seemed to say, "Laugh not at your own shame."

As we proceeded up the winding road on the opposite side of the river, the slave woman asked if I lived near Richmond. I said I lived fourteen miles south of there. Said she, "I reckon you doesn't want to buy us." My reply was, I could hold no human being in bondage. This caused a long silence among my fellow passengers; and as I thought of soon meeting my own little ones at home, I thought also of this poor slave-mother, soon to be sold, with her little ones, probably to be separated from them forever.

We arrived at Richmond soon after dark, and I hastened to the fire, at a public house, where I was soon followed by the little slaves. They crouched at my feet, and were enjoying the warmth, when the landlady entered. She innocently inquired, "are these your children, Mrs. Fee?" I replied, "They are slaves, brought here for sale." Just then the master, a very young man, entered, followed by the mother of the children; at his request the slaves were all taken to the kitchen, and I saw them no more.

"Wretchedness and woe on all their steps await."

Children, would you love to help to sustain a Gospel, that rebukes the barbarous practice of exposing women to sale on the auction block, and sundering the dear relation of parents and children!

MATILDA H. FEE.

Berea, Ky., Jan. 1858.